Evaluating Websites

To complete this activity, please choose a website about a topic **you are familiar with** and complete the following questions, following the **RADCAB** formula:

1. What web browser are you using?
2. What search engine are you using?

3. What is the URL of the web page you are evaluating? (Note: Examine the URL extension, also.)

[http://](http://_______________________________________________)

4. What is the name of the site?

5. Does the URL match the site, or is it ambiguous / misleading?

# Part One: Relevancy

How accurate does the information seem to be?

Can you check any of the facts, studies, statistics, or quotes given on the page? YES / NO

Does the information seem to mesh with what you already know about the subject and with what other sources are saying? YES / NO

Are there a variety of carefully-selected links to allow further access to information? YES / NO

How thorough is the site? How do you know?

**Overall assessment about relevancy:**

# Part Two: Appropriateness

# Is there anything on the site that suggests inappropriate or untasteful material? YES / NO

Look at the ads – are they appropriate, considering the audience / subject of the website? YES / NO

Are there many grammar/usage errors? YES / NO

# Overall assessment about appropriateness:

# Part Three: Detail

## Can you easily move within and outside the site (internal search engine, for example)? Explain:

Is the site well-organized and easy to navigate? Explain:

Is there a site map? YES / NO

Is the site visually appealing? Why or why not?

Does the page take a long time to load? YES / NO

**Overall assessment about detail:**

# Part Four: Currency

## When was the site created?

When was the site last updated?

Are the links updated in addition to the site itself? YES / NO

Does the site refer to clearly dated information (e.g., survey date, census data)? YES / NO

**Overall assessment about currency:**

# Part Five: Authority

## Who wrote the web page?

What are his/her credentials?

What possible biases might exist based on author information?

Is there biographical information available? YES / NO

Is the site affiliated with a reputable organization (e.g. college or government agency)? YES / NO

How do you know?

Are there other credible names mentioned or linked? YES / NO

Can you contact the author or group (e.g., e-mail address, telephone number, or address)? YES / NO

**Overall assessment about authority:**

# Part Six: Bias

Does the site seem to provide balanced, thoughtful information, or is it heavily biased or inflammatory?

Determine the web site’s sponsors/ owners

What kind of advertisements are on the page that may indicate bias?

**Overall assessments about bias:**

Based on all of your RADCAB assessments, provide justification of your overall assessment of whether this is a valid source for research: